

January-March, 1997

April-June, 1997

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE. Your response to our appeal for the Special Awards fund exceeded all expectations. At this writing, more than \$2,500 had been received. This ensures continuation of the awards program for the near future. We feel that the Keyhoe Journalism Award and the Davis Memorial Award are among our most important activities, and we are glad that you apparently agree. You can take pride in the fact that your support enables us to maintain the awards at a significant level. Thank you.--Richard Hall

SPECIAL AWARDS. The 1996 Donald E. Keyhoe Journalism Award, along with a check for \$1,000, was made to staff reporter Zack Van Eyck of the *Deseret News*, Salt Lake City, Utah. Throughout the summer and fall of last year, he reported on an array of UFO activity in Utah and elsewhere, including investigative journalism exploring several UFO-related topics. His reporting was fair and balanced. Nominations have now been made by the Fund board for the 1997 Isabel Davis Memorial Award, to recognize long-term accomplishments and excellence in promoting rational inquiry into reported UFOs and related phenomena. This year's nominees are: Mr. Ted Bloecher, Dr. Michael Swords, and Ms. Jennie Zeidman. (Short biographies of the nominees appear below; an awards ballot accompanies these reports.)

FUND ESTABLISHES WEB PAGE. On April 22 the Fund launched an excursion into cyberspace, establishing a web page that describes our activities and goals. We appreciate the messages of greeting that were received. Except for one: A representative of SETI Institute promptly requested that we remove our link to his organization. We thought we were doing them a favor. Apparently UFOs are, to them, an unsavory four-letter word. Our conservative site should be of interest to rational and open-minded people, including genuine skeptics. We thank volunteer John Hale for setting it up. Look us up at: <http://www.fufor.org>

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY. The Fund prepared news releases and background materials for the 50th anniversary of the Kenneth Arnold sighting (June 24) and the Roswell crash (circa. July 8) in cooperation with the UFO Research Coalition. Let us know if newspapers or radio-TV stations in your area reported on these events.

READER'S DIGEST VIDEO. A Reader's Digest videotape entitled "Strange Beings and UFOs," in the "Mysteries of the Unexplained Series," was scheduled to begin airing in Europe early in 1997. The second half, about UFOs, features Fund Chairman Richard Hall. The tape will be made available in the United States later this year.

TURNER TV SPECIAL. Turner Broadcasting System late last year broadcast a two-hour special on UFO abductions. Four sets of abductees were examined and reported on in detail, one pair being Anna and Beth (See their book *Connections*, available from the Fund) with whom several Fund board members have worked. The presentation was uniquely detailed and sensitively done. Another two-hour TBS special aired on June 29 at 9:00 p.m. eastern time. This one was a history of the UFO subject. The Fund received on-screen credit in both programs.

A&E SPECIALS. Two different production companies, one in Los Angeles area and one in Chicago, are working on another set of UFO documentaries for Arts & Entertainment network. One, a general history, is scheduled to air in September 1997. The other, focusing on abductions, will air later. Watch for listings of local broadcast times.

PGCC SEMINAR. The 1997 version of what has become an annual event, an all-day Fund for UFO Research UFO seminar at Prince George's Community College, Maryland, is scheduled for August 23. In recent years we have produced a videotape of the seminar. The lighting and sound quality has been uneven at times, but we are steadily making improvements and will once again make a videotape "proceedings" available late this year (see "New Publications" below for 1996 videotape). Some impressive UFO witnesses are being scheduled as speakers.

THE UFO EVIDENCE. Long-time readers of UFO literature will be familiar with *The UFO Evidence*, a 200,000 word

documentary report compiled by Fund Chairman Richard Hall and published in 1964 by the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena. Copies of the report have become scarce (and costly) on the second-hand market. Under a grant from the UFO Research Coalition, Hall now has prepared a 30+ year update with the working title *The UFO Evidence II*. This new volume will be published by Barnes & Noble, along with an inexpensive facsimile reprint of the original volume.

ISABEL DAVIS AWARD NOMINEES. Short profiles of the 1997 nominees follow: ① **Mr. Ted Bloecher** wrote the classic *Report on the UFO Wave of 1947*, was active in C.S.I. of New York in the 1950s, and while on the NICAP staff was instrumental in publication of the *U.S. Air Force Project Grudge and Blue Book Reports*. He led studies of UFO occupant cases, later compiling *The Humanoid Catalog* with David Webb. ② **Dr. Michael Swords** is a board member of CUFOs. Former editor of the *Journal of UFO Studies*, his extensive research into the UFO phenomenon has resulted in notable reports, including *Science and the Extraterrestrial Hypothesis in Ufology* and *The University of Colorado UFO Project: The "Scientific Study of UFOs."* His archival work with UFO document collections is legendary. ③ **Ms. Jennie Zeidman**, of Crested Butte, Colo., is one of the pioneer UFO investigators. She got her start in the late 1940s as an assistant to Dr. J. Allen Hynek, professor of astronomy at the Ohio State University and chief scientific consultant on UFOs to the U.S. Air Force. She is best known for her thorough investigation of the

Coyne helicopter case.

ABDUCTION IMPLANT ANALYSIS. [*Report by Susan Swiatek*] In early July 1996 the Fund received a call from an abductee familiar to us that she had sneezed out a metallic sphere from her nasal passage. She believed that this foreign object could very well be an alien implant. A meeting was arranged on July 12th at the Fairfax, VA, home of Robert and Susan Swiatek. The executive committee members audiotaped an interview with the subject to get the details of the story and Rob took close-up photos of the object and performed other preliminary tests. The Fund decided to have the sphere professionally tested.

The search for a suitable laboratory was more difficult than originally thought due to the two-step testing required. We wanted biological as well as materials/metallurgical testing. Finally, arrangements were made and funding was approved by the board. Laboratory Director Harry A. Taylor PhD of the MidLantic Medical Laboratory Inc. received the item from Susan Swiatek at his Fairfax lab on November 22, 1996. His final report was completed on April 10, 1997.

Dr. Taylor described the purported implant as "a small silvery metallic spheroid." The surface was covered with small threadlike adherents that tested out to be paper fibers (probably from the tissue paper it was kept in). Small pits in the surface area were filled with a brown substance, which Dr. Taylor felt was clay soil. The sphere was subjected to various solvent baths in lengthy oscillations and the "supernatant fluid" was placed on various

growing media at various temperatures. Nothing at all grew. This was extraordinary since many of us had gently held the item in our hands. Something should have cultured.

Dr. Taylor tried to locate protein or cells in the wash fluids, but was unable to find anything biological at all. Radiation testing was negative. A small piece of the sphere was sacrificed to find that the compound had three melting points that corresponded to a prosaic object. Dr. Taylor's final conclusion was that the object matched the "composition of a lead BB shot as used in shot gun shells." The lack of viable bacteria or fungi led him to believe the object had been cleaned with a biocidal agent (?!). The absence of protein or any tissue cells indicated "a very small possibility" that the object had been in a human body.

The Fund was left rather bewildered by the report. Even if a mistake of some kind was made by the abductee and she expelled a prosaic object, parts of the lab results are not consistent with even this explanation, in that the object was handled by many of us and was certainly not sterile.

In the end, the only positive was that a relationship with a capable laboratory had been established.

NEW PUBLICATIONS. Please note the following new items being offered for sale by the Fund: *Spacemen, Demons, & Conspiracies* by Jerome Clark (40 pp., \$16.00 plus \$1.00 postage and handling). Based on his research in connection with the UFO encyclopedia project, Clark examines the

evolution of human reactions to UFO sightings and how hypotheses have changed. He reviews and provides illuminating commentary on the history, literature, and sociology of the UFO field. *Spaceships or Mirages Over Washington National Airport, 1952?* (74 pp., \$15.00 plus \$2.00 postage and handling). This is the complete transcript of the 1952 Samford press conference held by the Air Force in the wake of a disturbing series of UFO radar/visual sightings over the nation's capital. The transcript is bound together with a 1969 Air Force report on aspects of mirages. *Project 1947: A Preliminary Report on the 1947 UFO Sighting Wave* by Jan L. Aldrich (213 pp., illustrated, \$20.00 plus \$2.00 postage and handling). Aldrich received a grant from the UFO Research Coalition to help him piece together his massive overview of the first modern UFO wave. Although but a preliminary report, this volume includes many retyped 1947 newspaper accounts--primarily from the U.S. but also from Sweden, Finland, France, and Australia--that serve to indicate what people reported seeing in the skies of that time. Volume 3 of *Mysteries of the Sky: The UFO Phenomenon* (1:40, VHS, \$16.00 plus \$5.00 postage and handling). Highlights of talks given by Fund associates at a Washington, D.C.-area community college in 1996 are captured on this professionally produced videotape.--Don Berliner, Richard Hall, Rob Swiatek, Susan Swiatek